(b) The decline in production of phosphatic fertilisers, may be attributed fo decline in demand as a result of sharp increase in its price since the decontrol in August, 1992 and higher cost of indigenous production. The passenger car industry has benefitted from the reduction in customs and excise duties and cheaper availability of credit.

(c) The food products industry has shown a decline of 15.1% during April—October, 1993-94. The production of cloth and yarn has registered an increase of 2.2.% and 11.4% respectively during April—September, 1993-94 compared to the same period last year.

(d) The decline in food products industry is mainly due to a sharp fall of 59.3% in production of sugar during April—September, 1993 over the same period previous year. This may be attributed to drought conditions in certain States

Delay in newsprint project in Aliganj, Moradabad

1408. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had approved newsprint project in 1989 to be set up at aliganj, Moradabad, District of Uttar Pradesh and if so, what is the present status of the project; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the discontent among the farmers whose 800 acres of land had been acquired for the project and whether in view of the delay, Government propose to return the land to the cultivators ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) Government approved in 1989 the setting up of a baggase based newsprint mill at Aliganj, District Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh by Nepa Ltd. with budgetary support from Govt. Nepa Ltd. took possession of 800 acres of land, developed infra structure like site and office etc. However, on account of financial constraints, offers have been invited from entrepreneurs to takeover the project for further implementation. The return of land to cultivators is not contemplated at this stage.

Reduction in plan outlay for PSUs

1409. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan outlay of the public sector undertakings for 1994-95 under the Department of Heavy Industry has been slashed to about 40 percent; and

(b) what steps the Department of Heavy Industry intends to take to safeguard the interest of the Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Table below gives the Plan outlay for the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) for 1993-94 and 1994-95.

(Rs. in crores)

	Total Outlay	Budgetary Support (BS) excluding external aid
1993-94	605.56	84.00
1994-95	368.43	100.21

(b) The DHI apart from posing the financial requirements of the PSUs to various agencies including Planning Commission tries to help the PSUs in arrangement of orders, securing assistance from international and national financial institutions and acts as an interface between PSUs and other agencies of the Government.

Technology transfers

1410. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI G.G.SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of agreements with foreign companies or Governments embodying technology transfers alongwith the details thereof including the charge on technology transfer;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article written by IIT professor, Indra Sen, and published in the Observor